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SENATE RESOLUTION

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WHEREAS, On April 10, 2010, Polish President Lech Kaczynski, his wife, Maria, political and military officials, and several others died when their government airplane crashed in western Russia; and

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WHEREAS, President Kaczynski and others were en route to a ceremony commemorating the 70th anniversary of the Katyn massacre, where 20,000 Polish officers and intelligentsia were executed by the Red Army; and

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WHEREAS, Lech Kaczynski was born, along with his twin brother, Jaroslaw, on June 18, 1949, in Warsaw, Poland, to parents, Rajmund and Jadwiga, both strong patriots and participants in the Warsaw uprising of 1944 during World War II; and

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WHEREAS, Lech Kaczynski graduated from Warsaw University in 1971 with a degree in law, and later earned his Ph.D. in the same field from Gdansk University, and continued to lecture at the University for the next twenty years; and

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WHEREAS, He first became active in politics in 1977, when he joined the democratic opposition's organization, and was later elected senator; and

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1           WHEREAS, Lech Kaczynski was elected Mayor of Warsaw in 2002  
2 and took a tough stance on crime, spearheaded a fight to end  
3 corruption in the city and in national government, and  
4 supported the creation of the Museum of the Warsaw Uprising in  
5 2004; and

6           WHEREAS, He was elected President of Poland in 2005, and he  
7 led the nation by focusing on economic security, ending  
8 corruption, and increasing national solidarity; and

9           WHEREAS, The State of Illinois has the second largest  
10 Polish population in the United States, and is greatly saddened  
11 by this series of tragic events, especially the passing of  
12 President Kaczynski; therefore, be it

13           RESOLVED, BY THE SENATE OF THE NINETY-SIXTH GENERAL  
14 ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, that we recognize the  
15 dedication and leadership of President Lech Kaczynski to the  
16 people of Poland; and be it further

17           RESOLVED, That it is with profound sadness that we mourn,  
18 along with President Barack Obama, other heads of state, and  
19 his surviving family and friends, the passing of President Lech  
20 Kaczynski.